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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,656	01/24/2002	Anthony A. Shah-Nazaroff	42390P6490C	9800

8791 7590 01/14/2004

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EXAMINER

SAID, MANSOUR M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,656

Applicant(s)

SHAH-NAZAROFF, ANTHONY A.

Examiner

MANSOUR M SAID

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

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DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-46 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,277 B1. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the conflicting claims are not patentably distinct from each other because the subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the referenced Pat. No. 6,411,277 B1. As can be seen from the Application's claim and the patent's claims, the limitation is substantially similar, and the referenced patent application and the instant application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

A computer system comprising a bus; a display device coupled to the bus to display device; a processor coupled to the bus; a wireless communications interface coupled to the bus; a device driver; a pointer device; a pointer device display a pointer on the display device in respond to the signal; received form the device; selection signals; stop displaying the pointer in respond to not receiving the active signal.

The referenced patent does not detail that active signal to allow video image to be displayed.

However, the referenced patent's device is capable to included such claimed limitations such as "the active signal to allow video image to be displayed" to increase the versatility of the input device.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 24-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Autry et al. (5,724,106; hereinafter referred to as Autry).

As to claim 24, Autry teaches that a wireless remote control unit (keyboard remote, (figure 10, (126)) for an entertainment system comprising a sensor unit that generates an active signal to display a pointer on a display device of the entertainment system independent of the selection of any position direction, any command, and any option (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 24-67); and a transmission unit (RF generating circuit, (figures 9-10,

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(932 & 1040)), coupled to the navigation unit (selection buttons, (figures 9-10, (910, 930, 932 & 1010) to transmit the active signal to a wireless receiver of an entertainment system (abstract; (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 24-67 and column 13, lines 1-23).

As to claim 25, Autry teaches wherein the sensor unit comprises a pressure sensor (figure 10, (1010)) (column 12, lines 34-65).

As to claim 26, Autry teaches wherein the pressure sensor (figure 9A, (912)) is located where a person using the wireless remote control unit would have to depress it (column 11, lines 35-51).

As to claim 28, Autry teaches wherein the sensor unit comprises a motion sensor (track ball, (figure 9A, (910)) and column 11, lines 35-51).

As to claim 29, Autry teaches where a navigation unit (track ball, (figure 9A, (910)) to generate position signals to direct the position of the pointer on the display device and wherein the transmission unit further transmits the position signals to the wireless receiver of the entertainment system (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 25-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

As to claim 30, Autry teaches wherein the navigation unit comprises a trackball (track ball, (figure 9A, (910)) and column 11, lines 24-67).

As to claim 31, Autry teaches wherein the navigation unit comprises a finger pad (touch pad, (figure 10, (1010)) and column 12, lines 34-67).

As to claim 32, Autry teaches wherein the navigation unit comprises a plurality of navigation buttons (figures 9 & 10, (912-913, 1030 & 1032); column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 34-67).

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As to **claim 33**, Autry teaches a selection unit (figures 9 and 10, (910-913, 924, 926, 930, 1010, 1030, 1032 and 1026) to generate selection signals indicating a selection of an option related to the position of the pointer on the display device and wherein the transmission unit further transmits the selection signals to the wireless receiver of the entertainment system (column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Autry in view of Heath et al. (4,760,386; hereinafter referred to as Heath).

As to **claims 1, 9, 15 and 19**, Autry teaches a computer system comprising a bus (figures 3 & 6, (bus, (312)) (abstract, column 6, lines 62-67 and column 7, lines 1-18); a display device coupled to the bus (figures 3 & 6, (322)) to display (monitor, (122) video images (column 6, lines 63-67; column 8, lines 35-45 and column 9, lines 9-11) (figures 3-5 and 16); a processor (figures 3 & 6, (310)) coupled to the bus (figure, 3 & 6, (312)) (column 6, lines 62-67; column 7, lines 1-19; column 8, lines 35-45 and column 9, lines 1-11); a wireless communications interface (hand held remote, (figure 3) coupled to the bus (figure 3, (312)) (column 6, lines 62-67; column 7, lines 1-19; column 8, lines 35-45 and column 9, lines 1-11); and a device driver (figure (3, (330, 332, 334 & 336) coupled to the wireless communications interface (handhold remote,

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(figure 9, (124)) (column 7, lines 40-67 and column 12, line 64 through column 13, line 23), the device driver (figure 3, (330, 332, 334 & 336) including a pointer display unit ((handhold remote, (figures 3 and 9, (124)) to display a pointer on the display device in response to an active signal received from the wireless communications interface (column 7, lines 40-67 and column 12, line 64 through column 13, line 23).

Autry does not expressly disclose that the active signal being independent of any position direction and any option selection, the pointer display unit also to stop displaying the pointer in response to not receiving the active signal to allow video images to be displayed on the display device unobstructed by the pointer.

However, Heath discloses that the active signal being independent of any position direction and any option selection (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 25-60; column 5, line 35-67 through column 6, line 6 and column 9, line 64 though column 10, line 8), the pointer display unit (mouse) also to stop displaying the pointer in response to not receiving the active signal to allow video images to be displayed on the display device unobstructed by the pointer (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Heath's teaching into Autry's input device so as to allows the operator to be periodically conscious of the mouse pointer position without annoying flickering or the performance impact inherent with the immediate redisplay of the mouse pointer after each keystroke or other, similar display updating event (column 10, lines 3-8).

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As to **claim 2**, Heath teaches that wherein the device driver further comprises a timer unit to allow the pointer display unit to stop displaying the pointer after a predefined period of time after the active signal is not received from the wireless communications interface (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 3**, Heath teaches wherein the device driver further comprises a pointer positioning unit to move a position of the pointer presented on the display device in response to position signals received from wireless communications interface (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 4**, Autry teaches a selection indication unit (selection button, (figure 9A, (912)) to notify the computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals from the wireless communications interface (column 11, lines 24-51).

As to **claim 5**, Autry teaches a remote wireless pointing device (handhold remote, (figure 9, (124)) the wireless communications interface receiving the active signals from the remote pointing device (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 1-33 and column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 23).

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As to claim 6, Autry teaches wherein the active signal is indicative of the pointing device being held (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 1-33 and column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 23).

As to claim 7, Autry teaches wherein the active signal is indicative of a pressure sensor (figure 10, (1010)) on the pointing device being depressed (column 12, lines 34-65).

As to claim 8, Autry teaches wherein the pointer display unit monitors the wireless communications interface for the active signal. (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 1-33 and column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 23).

As to claim 10, Heath teaches a timer unit to allow the pointer display unit to stop displaying the pointer after a predefined period of time after the active signal is not received from the pointing device the active signal being indicative of the pointing device being held (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to claim 11, Autry teaches a pointer-positioning unit to move a position of a pointer presented on the display device in response to position signals received from the pointing device (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 1-33 and column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 23).

As to claim 12, Autry teaches a selection indication unit (selection button, (figure 9A, (912))) to notify a computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals received from the pointing device (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67; column 12, lines 1-33 and column 12, line 66 through column 13, line 23).

As to **claim 13**, Autry teaches wherein the pointer display unit (remote control, (figure 9, (124)), the pointer positioning unit (track ball, (figure 9, (910))), and the selection indication unit (selection button, (figure 9A, (912))) reside on a single semiconductor substrate (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

As to **claim 14**, Heath teaches wherein the active signal is indicative of the pointing device being held (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 16**, Heath teaches wherein instructions which, when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform further operations comprising stopping the pointer display after a predefined period of time after the active signal is not received from the pointing device (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 17**, Heath teaches that when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising moving the position of the pointer in response to position signals received from the pointing device (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 18**, Heath teaches that instructions which, when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform further operations comprising notifying a computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals

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received from the pointing device (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 20**, Heath teaches that determining whether the pointing device is being handled comprises monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing device, the active signal indicating that the pointing device is being handled without a selection or position change being indicated (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 21**, Heath teaches that the pointing device is being handled comprises monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing device the active signal indicating that a pressure sensor on the pointing device is being depressed (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

As to **claim 22**, Autry teaches that monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing device (remote control, (figure 9, (124)) the active signal indicating that a motion sensor on the pointing device is being triggered (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

As to **claim 23**, Heath teaches wherein hiding the pointer comprises hiding the pointer on the display device after a predetermined period of time after the pointing device has stopped

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being handled. (figures 2-7; abstract; column 3, lines 1-60; column 5, lines 35-67; column 6, lines 1-6; column 6, lines 30-67; column 7, lines 55-67; column 8, lines 1-26; column 8, lines 55-64; column 9, lines 35-67 and column 10, lines 55-64).

5. Claims 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Autry in view of Hinckley et al. (6,559,830 B1).

Autry teaches all claimed limitations except that the pressure sensor is located on the bottom of the input device.

However, Hinckley fairly teaches that the pressure sensor (sensor, figure 16, (242)) is located on the bottom (base) of the input device (column 10, lines 37-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Hinckley's device having sensor on the base into Autry's device so as to increase the versatility of the input device.

6. Claims 34-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Autry in view of Hinckley.

As to claim 34, Autry teaches that a pointing device (hand held remote control, (figure 9, (124)) comprising a navigation unit (trackball, (figure 9, (910)) to generate position signals indicating where a pointer is to be directed on a display device (column 11, lines 24-67); a selection unit (selection button, (figure 9, (912) to generate selection signals indicating when a selection is made (column 11, lines 24-51); and a transmission unit (cursor control device) coupled to the navigation unit (trackball, (figure 9, (910)) (column 11, lines 24-51 and column

19, lines 26-40), the selection unit (selection button, (figure 9, (912)) to receive the position signals, the selection signals and the active signal and transmit them to a remote location (column 11, lines 24-67).

Autry does not teach that a sensor unit independent of the navigation unit and the selection unit to generate an active signal indicating that the pointing device is being handled.

However, Hinckley teaches a sensor unit (sensors, (figure 4A, (184 & 186)) independent of the navigation unit (rotational movement of wheel (figure 4A, (178)) and the selection unit (buttons, (figure 4A, (174 & 176))), to generate an active signal indicating that the pointing device is being handled (abstract; column 7, lines 40-67; column 8, lines 21; column 10, lines 37-52 and column 20, lines 10-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Hinckley's teaching into Autry's device so as to perform a number of functions including determining with which hand the user holds the input device, adjusting the speed at which the cursor moves across the screen, paging through documents, scrolling through documents, and navigating through a pie menu (column 2, lines 1-8).

As to **claim 35**, Autry teaches wherein the position signals describe a coordinate on a defined coordinate system of the display device to move the pointer (figures 9 & 10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 24-67).

As to **claim 36**, wherein the navigation unit comprises at least one of a trackball (trackball, (figure 9, (910)) a touch pad (column 11, lines 34-40), a joystick (figure 9, (911)), and a plurality of navigation buttons (figure 9, (930 & 932)) (column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-33).

As to **claim 37**, Autry teaches wherein the selection unit comprises a button (figure 9, (930 & 932)) so that a user can make a selection by positioning the pointer with the navigation unit (trackball, (figure 9, (910)) and pushing the selection button (column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-33).

As to **claim 38**, Autry teaches wherein the selection signals are effective to notify a computer system at the remote location that a selectable identifier on a display device has been selected (figures 9 and 10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

As to **claim 39**, Hinckley teaches wherein the sensor unit (sensors, (figure 4A, (184 & 186))) is triggered when the pointing device is being used (abstract; column 7, lines 40-67; column 8, lines 21; column 10, lines 37-52 and column 20, lines 10-27).

As to **claim 40**, Hinckley teaches wherein the sensor unit (sensors, (figure 4A, (184 & 186))) is triggered whenever the navigation unit (rotational movement of wheel (figure 4A, (178)) or the selection unit (buttons, (figure 4A, (174 & 176))), is being used (abstract; column 7, lines 40-67; column 8, lines 21; column 10, lines 37-52 and column 20, lines 10-27).

As to **claim 41**, Hinckley teaches wherein the sensor unit comprises a pressure sensor (sensors, (figure 4A, (184 & 186))) (abstract; column 7, lines 40-67; column 8, lines 21; column 10, lines 37-52 and column 20, lines 10-27).

As to **claim 42**, Hinckley teaches wherein the pressure sensor (sensors, (figure 4A, (184 & 186))) is located where a person using the pointing device (figure 4A, (170)) would have to depress it (abstract; column 7, lines 40-67; column 8, lines 21; column 10, lines 37-52 and column 20, lines 10-27).

As to **claim 43**, Hinckley teaches wherein the pressure sensor (touch sensor) is located on the bottom (base, (figure 16, (242))) of the pointing device (joystick, (figure 16, (240))) (column 10, lines 35-52).

As to **claim 44**, Hinckley teaches wherein the sensor unit (figure 4A, (184 & 186)) comprises a motion sensor (rotational movement of wheel (figure 4A, (178))) (column 7, lines 40-67 and column 8, lines 1-22).

As to **claim 45**, Autry teaches wherein the transmission unit transmits to a wireless interface of an entertainment system (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

As to **claim 46**, Autry teaches wherein the active signal is effective to display the pointer on a display device of the entertainment system (figures 9-10; column 11, lines 24-67 and column 12, lines 1-67).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Torok et al. (4,317,956) teach a system has been devised which provides for a cursor to appear on the remote screen.

Duncan et al. (5,847,695) teach an interface device.

Frederick (5,990,868) teaches a remote control input device for use with a computer system.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mansour M. Said** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5411**.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Shalwala Bipin**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4938**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

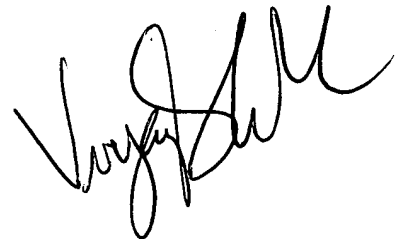
(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

January 11, 2004

Mansour M. Said



**VIJAY SHANKAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER**